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# Modern Scotland Yard Of Shanghai Makes Things "Hot" For City Gangsters

## New Scientific Technique Used In Criminal Apprehension

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What with scientific stuff and new fangled ideas creeping into police work, it's getting so a good crook can't make a decent living.

The above is a common complaint among members of Shanghai's lawless fraternity. Recent innovations introduced in International Settlement police work, have made many knights of the gun, blackjack, and mask, and all their ilk look to other fields for less precarious means of livelihood.

### Where Work Begins

The layman, whose knowledge of police work includes only that gleaned from witnessing beggars, or an occasional more serious mal-factor, being ignominiously led by a burly minion of the law in the direction of the station house, is grossly ignorant of the intricate workings of the body that affords comparatively air tight protection to residents of the International Settlement. It has been truly said that the police are psychic in their analysis of crime and detection of criminals. Where the layman's observations end, police work really begins. The machinations of science, delicate in detail and too convicting for argument in summing up crime and placing blame where it rightfully belongs, are fighting a winning, one-sided battle against illicit gains, from the morose to genius crimes.

With the interlocking nature of police activities, the absorption of one department by a second, and that in turn by a third, and the innumerable avenues of intelligence connecting each unit of the entire system with every other function of the police, it is difficult to begin at any logical beginning and proceed in any orderly fashion through the maze of police work. This is a summary of the procedure.

### First Step

One of the main objectives of the police is to maintain order and prevent crime. This is done by a system of patrolling the streets and by a system of investigation. The police are also responsible for the maintenance of the law and for the punishment of criminals.

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under classifications of a scar on right cheek and limp in right leg, would be traced through individual histories, in which every offender is described minutely. With these two characteristics known, the unknown quantities could easily be recognized from the criminal biographies that line shelves in police headquarters.

### Catalogues Maintained

Catalogues are also maintained covering such details as: teeth missing, protruding, gold, etc.; body deformities... low shoulder, twisted hip, etc.; nose... broken, Roman, arched, etc.; speech... dialect, stutter, stammer, etc.; pockmarks; tattoo marks; names and aliases; clothing; asserted profession; and all conceivable details that might mark a man from the rest of humanity. It requires only a few known quantities to give the police hint as to the identity of the man; the unknowns are all found in the suspect's personal biography, which is maintained in utmost detail, including pictures, in another section of the catalogue.

Unmentioned in the above, yet so important a classification that it in itself is a long story, is the category of methods of "pulling" a job. Detectives present evidence showing that criminals are schooled in a certain way of operating, and that they seldom deviate from this method. It is true that certain burglars will elect to climb a drain in preference to walking through an open door. It is their way of working, and they are bound to stick to it. Because of this fact, a large number of crimes may be traced to a certain criminal because of his individualistic way of operating. Through their records police may successfully accuse an offender of perpetrating a series of similar offenses.

### Information Recorded

Old detectives, who could put their hands on a criminal in a matter of minutes, are now forced to wait for a long time before they can get a lead. This is because the police are now required to record every detail of a crime, and to maintain a complete record of every offender. This is done by a system of patrolling the streets and by a system of investigation.

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### Interesting Rackets

A number of interesting "rackets" are recorded in the catalogue. Police have little doubt but that these will deliver the authors of these frauds into their hands. Many games have undeniable elements of humor. A like number portray a pathetic side of gullible farmer lads, who have come to the city to make good and are duped out of all their worldly possessions during their first day of metropolitan existence. Widows and orphans too add to receipts of modern Chinese dupsters that prevail in all parts of Shanghai. According to the number of successful, shady enterprises in Shanghai, Fagan, the Artful Dodger, and all their band would find this a happy hunting ground.

There is the "telephone man." He is a wise thief. There are 36 cases on record wherein this individual has come to foreign and Chinese homes to "inspect" the telephone. "Just a monthly check-up," he explains as he takes down the receiver and tinkers with the instrument. Invariably he discovers something wrong with the telephone, and upon his promise to install a better instrument of newer design, the telephone subscriber is usually only too glad to allow him to remove the phone and walk away with it. Often his demand for \$1 cumra for the service is met. Although he explains that his partner will follow up within a half hour with a new telephone, none has ever been recorded as having been installed.

### "Gas Man" Stems

The "gas man" works a similar racket. He comes to inspect gas appliances. After tinkering with the system for a brief period, he makes away with all the valuable fittings.

There are the duo who manipulate a wallet at considerable gain. One drops the wallet; his companion picks it up and urges an innocent bystander to "pay nothing for it, but will share it." The latter, too withdrawn into a nearby shop to verify the contents. The one who picked up the wallet hands it over to the other, but about the time the latter is about to leave, he is stopped by a police officer. The officer, who has the wallet, asks the man to show him the contents. The man, who has the wallet, shows him the contents. The officer, who has the wallet, asks the man to show him the contents. The man, who has the wallet, shows him the contents.

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"My wife will wait outside until I return," he states pointing to the doctor. "If the goods are satisfactory, I will bring the money from my friend to pay for them," he adds. The man asks the doctor to wait for a moment, and neither he nor the goods is seen again.

Another city slicker approaches a fairly well dressed Chinese woman and informs her that there is a job open for an amah. The position invariably pays an attractive salary. "You are too well dressed, however," the stranger informs the woman. "Perhaps you had better leave your wraps and things with me, while you go inside the building to apply for the job." The woman proceeds to a certain room in the building designated, learns that they have no need of an amah, and returns to find the stranger and her property gone.

There is the one-eyed youth, who makes a practice of ordering flowers to be delivered at a building by cycle coolie. He meets the coolie, tells him to go upstairs and leave the flowers in a certain room, and while the coolie is gone, the stranger absconds with the bicycle, which is usually valued at about \$50.

#### Buyers Of Notes

Women have proven ready buyers of \$50 notes. They are usually sold for about \$16 cash and are later discovered to be "joss notes."

One may well conjecture as to what happens to youths met on Ningpo Road who deliver their bundles to strangers to hold, while they go to a nearby shop for cigarettes. They are usually promised a few coppers for the service.

Apprentices have proven a God-send to artful deceivers. There is the ever-recurring example of the man who stops apprentices on their way out of banks and informs the latter that the notes they carry have depreciated in value. The stranger leads these boys to another bank where, he says, the value may be given for the notes, and after a long talk with the cashier, of which the youth hears not a word, the youth is steered to a place where he can buy a 12 cent tax stamp necessary for the transaction, in which the notes are to be given full value. On the way the very obliging stranger, who in negotiating for the full value of the note, has taken over the money, sends the boy across the street for cigarettes. The answer is easy.

The showman and his Buddha that gives immortality is well known. He promises that his wooden image of Buddha will double all money placed in the figure's possession. The showman takes the money offered, wraps it into a small bundle, and places it inside the image. A few gesticulations and vaticinations and it's practically all over. The small wad is handed the owner, and true enough, it is approximately double its original size. The owner is instructed to take the packet home, keep it for a half hour, and then open it. The wad is invariably blank paper.